

REMARKS

Applicants' representative wishes to thank Examiner Pedder for the courtesy extended during the personal interview conducted on February 15, 2005. A separate record of the substance of the interview is included in the remarks which follow.

Claims 1, 4-7, 9-16, 18, 21-25, 28, and 30-31 remain in this application, while claims 2-3, 8, 17, 19-20, 26-27, and 29 are canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

The information provided in paragraph 3 of the specification is updated above.

The objection to the drawings discussed in section 1 on page 2 of the Office Action is overcome by the drawing amendments referred to above, by which Figure 1 is modified in the manner briefly discussed during the interview.

The claim amendments set forth above are made following consideration of the comments provided by the Examiner in section 2 on page 3 of the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims remaining in this application now fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Each of independent claims 1, 16, 25, and 31 is amended above in the manner discussed during the interview, now incorporates limitations previously

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

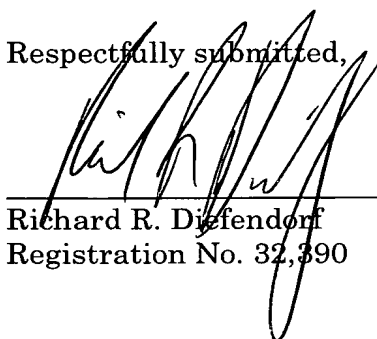
Please amend Figure 1 by replacing the drawing sheet including that figure with the replacement drawing sheet appended to this Reply. Also appended to this Reply is a copy of the original drawing sheet showing, in red, the change made to Figure 1.

appearing in claims 2, 3, and 8, and now specifies that the control plate is rotatable about a longitudinally extending axis of the vehicle as is apparent, for example, from Figures 1-3 of this application. Certain dependent claims are also amended above for consistency. As tentatively agreed during the interview, each of currently amended claims 1, 16, 25, and 31 is patentable over the disclosures provided by the Schroeder et al. patent, the Klein patent, the Schlachter et al. patent, the Steyer-Daimler-Puch document, and the Perks patent discussed in sections 4, 5, and 8-12 on pages 3-6 of the Office Action and should be allowable. The remaining claims of this application are dependent claims and should be allowable as well.

This application should now be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions after considering this Reply, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

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Respectfully submitted,



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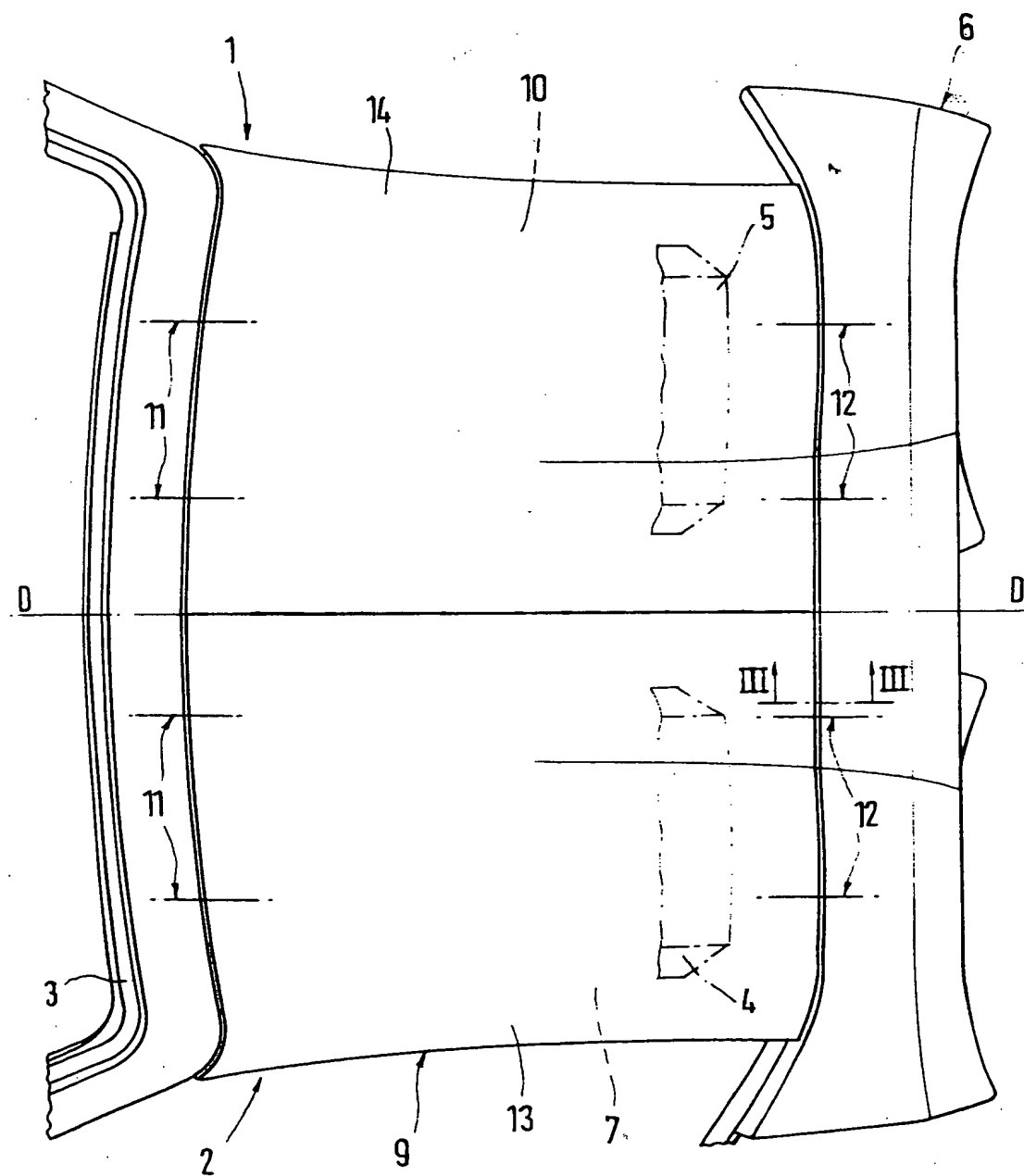


Fig.1